

Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1171

Introduced by

Representatives Grueneich, Blum, Dockter, Headland, Howe, Mitskog, Pollert, Satrom

Senators Cook, Wanzek

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact two new sections to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota~~
2 ~~Century Code, relating to the development and implementation of a skilled workforce student~~
3 ~~loan repayment program; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide for a transfer; to~~
4 ~~provide an expiration date; and to declare an emergency.~~ for an Act to create and enact two
5 new sections to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the development
6 and implementation of a skilled workforce student loan repayment program and a skilled
7 workforce scholarship program; to provide continuing appropriations; to provide for transfers; to
8 provide for reports to the legislative management; and to declare an emergency.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

10 ~~—SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
11 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

12 ~~—Skilled workforce student loan repayment program – Development and~~
13 ~~implementation.~~

14 ~~—1. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to develop, implement, promote, and~~
15 ~~administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment program in conjunction with the~~
16 ~~North Dakota university system and the North Dakota workforce development council~~
17 ~~with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for professional or technical skills~~
18 ~~in high demand in this state.~~

19 ~~—2. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North~~
20 ~~Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible~~
21 ~~high demand and emerging occupations in this state.~~

22 ~~—3. The North Dakota university system and the North Dakota workforce development~~
23 ~~council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs by April first of each~~
24 ~~year. Qualifying educational programs may include degree or certificate programs.~~

- 1 ~~4. Graduates of qualifying educational programs from institutions or entities in this state~~
2 ~~may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to~~
3 ~~receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:~~
- 4 ~~a. Must have successfully completed a qualifying educational program from a Bank~~
5 ~~of North Dakota-approved institution or entity after January 1, 2019;~~
- 6 ~~b. Must have maintained at least a 2.75 grade point average, based on a~~
7 ~~4.0 grading system;~~
- 8 ~~c. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating~~
9 ~~lender;~~
- 10 ~~d. Following completion of a qualifying educational program must remain and work~~
11 ~~in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and~~
- 12 ~~e. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule.~~
- 13 ~~5. The Bank of North Dakota shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with residency and~~
14 ~~occupation requirements after completion of the qualifying educational program.~~
- 15 ~~6. The Bank of North Dakota shall distribute student loan repayment grants from the~~
16 ~~skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of North~~
17 ~~Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal~~
18 ~~balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant~~
19 ~~amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven~~
20 ~~dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance,~~
21 ~~whichever is less. The maximum total student loan repayment grant amount for which~~
22 ~~any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand dollars.~~
- 23 ~~7. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other provision, the individual~~
24 ~~may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during the same~~
25 ~~application year.~~
- 26 ~~8. The skilled workforce student loan repayment program must be a joint public and~~
27 ~~private effort. The Bank of North Dakota shall provide one dollar of funding for each~~
28 ~~one dollar of funding raised from the private sector.~~
- 29 ~~9. The North Dakota university system in cooperation with the North Dakota workforce~~
30 ~~development council shall seek private matching funds for the skilled workforce~~

~~student loan repayment program. Any matching funds received must be deposited in
the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund.~~

~~— **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 6-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
and enacted as follows:~~

~~— **Skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund established - Continuing
appropriation.**~~

~~— The skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund is established as a revolving
fund. All moneys deposited or transferred into the fund and interest earned on moneys in the
fund are appropriated for the purposes of section 1 of this Act.~~

~~— **SECTION 3. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE
STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer
the sum of \$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank's current
earnings and undivided profits to the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund
during the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2021.~~

~~— **SECTION 4. EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 2 of this Act is effective through June 30, 2021,
and after that date is ineffective.~~

~~— **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.~~

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
and enacted as follows:

**Skilled workforce student loan repayment program - Skilled workforce student loan
repayment program fund - Continuing appropriation - Report.**

**1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce student loan repayment
program fund. The fund consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative
assembly, matching funds received, and loan repayments. Moneys in the fund are
appropriated to the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the
purpose of distributing student loan repayment grants directly to the Bank of North
Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal
balances for eligible applicants.**

**2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce student loan repayment
program in cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce**

development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.

3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.

4. The state board of higher education and the North Dakota workforce development council shall compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. Qualifying education programs must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in high demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. Qualifying educational programs may include degree or certificate programs.

5. Graduates of qualifying educational programs from institutions or entities in this state may apply for the skilled workforce student loan repayment program. To be eligible to receive student loan repayment grants under the program, the applicant:

a. Must have successfully completed a qualifying educational program from an eligible institution of higher education;

b. Must have a student loan with the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender;

c. Following completion of a qualifying educational program, must reside and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation; and

d. Must have met and shall continue to meet any requirements established by rule.

6. The state board of higher education shall adopt rules to ensure compliance with residency and occupation requirements after completion of the qualifying educational program.

7. The state board of higher education shall distribute student loan repayment grants from the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund directly to the Bank of North Dakota or other participating lender to repay outstanding student loan principal balances for eligible applicants. The maximum annual student loan repayment grant amount for which an applicant may qualify is five thousand six hundred sixty-seven dollars, or one-third of the applicant's outstanding student loan principal balance upon initial application for the program, whichever is less. The maximum total student loan

1 repayment grant amount for which any applicant may qualify is seventeen thousand
2 dollars.

3 8. If an individual is receiving loan forgiveness under any other provision, the individual
4 may not receive a student loan repayment grant under this section during the same
5 application year. An individual who received a skilled workforce scholarship under
6 section 2 of this Act is not eligible for loan forgiveness under this section.

7 9. The skilled workforce student loan repayment program must be a joint public and
8 private effort. The state board of higher education shall provide one dollar of funding
9 for each one dollar of funding raised from the private sector. Any matching funds
10 received must be deposited in the skilled workforce student loan repayment program
11 fund.

12 10. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the
13 legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report
14 must include information regarding:

15 a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging
16 occupations;

17 b. The qualifying educational programs;

18 c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;

19 d. The amount of private funding raised; and

20 e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

21 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
22 and enacted as follows:

23 **Skilled workforce scholarship program - Skilled workforce scholarship fund -**
24 **Continuing appropriation - Report.**

25 1. There is created in the state treasury the skilled workforce scholarship fund. The fund
26 consists of moneys transferred into the fund by the legislative assembly, matching
27 funds received, and scholarship repayments. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to
28 the state board of higher education on a continuing basis for the purpose of providing
29 grants to institutions of higher education related to skilled workforce scholarships.
30 Institutions of higher education include institutions under the control of the state board

1 of higher education, North Dakota nonpublic accredited institutions of higher
2 education, and tribally controlled community colleges.

3 2. The state board of higher education shall adopt policies and procedures to develop,
4 implement, promote, and administer a skilled workforce scholarship program in
5 cooperation with the Bank of North Dakota and the North Dakota workforce
6 development council with the intent of attracting and retaining individuals for
7 professional or technical skills in high demand in this state.

8 3. The North Dakota workforce development council in cooperation with job service North
9 Dakota shall use available labor market information to determine annually the eligible
10 high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in this state.

11 4. The state board of higher education and the workforce development council shall
12 compile a list of qualifying educational programs annually. Qualifying educational
13 programs must be able to be completed within four semesters or six quarters and
14 must pertain to the professional and technical skills and emerging occupations in high
15 demand in this state, as determined under subsection 3. Qualifying educational
16 programs may include degree or certificate programs.

17 5. Individuals enrolled in a qualifying educational program in this state may apply for a
18 scholarship under this section. Scholarships are limited to the amount charged each
19 quarter, semester, or term by the educational institution for the tuition, fees, books, and
20 supplies required for the qualifying educational program. The scholarships are
21 intended to supplement any other scholarship or financial aid grant received by a
22 student to assist the student with the costs of the qualifying educational program. An
23 individual may not receive more than seventeen thousand dollars in total under this
24 section.

25 6. To be eligible for a scholarship under this section, a student must be enrolled full time
26 in an eligible program and maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average, based on a
27 4.0 grading system, or maintain academic progress in the program according to
28 program requirements. A student may not receive scholarships under this section for
29 more than the equivalent of four semesters of full-time enrollment or six quarters of
30 full-time enrollment.

7. Upon completion of a qualifying educational program, a student who received a scholarship under this section must reside and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation for a minimum of three years.

8. An individual shall repay the scholarship pursuant to the terms in the individual's scholarship award agreement if the individual fails to maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average while enrolled, discontinues attendance before the completion of any semester or quarter for which a scholarship has been received, or fails to reside and work in this state in an eligible high-demand or emerging occupation for at least three years following degree or certificate completion.

9. Each quarter, semester, or term, the state board of higher education shall distribute grants to institutions of higher education to provide the amounts necessary for the scholarships awarded to the students enrolled in each institution.

10. The skilled workforce scholarship program must be a joint public and private effort. The state board of higher education may distribute grants only to the extent that the private sector has provided one dollar of matching funds for each dollar of funding provided by the state. Any matching funds received must be deposited in the skilled workforce scholarship fund.

11. The state board of higher education shall provide a biennial program report to the legislative management by September first of each even-numbered year. The report must include information regarding:

a. The eligible high-demand professional and technical skills and emerging occupations;

b. The qualifying educational programs;

c. The number of applicants, eligible applicants, and applicants receiving awards;

d. The amount of private funding raised; and

e. The average and total amounts awarded under the program.

SECTION 3. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE

STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FUND. The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer the sum of \$3,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits to the skilled workforce student loan repayment program fund during the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2021.

1 **SECTION 4. TRANSFER - BANK OF NORTH DAKOTA - SKILLED WORKFORCE**

2 **SCHOLARSHIP FUND.** The Bank of North Dakota shall transfer the sum of \$3,000,000, or so
3 much of the sum as may be necessary, from the Bank's current earnings and undivided profits
4 to the skilled workforce scholarship fund during the period beginning with the effective date of
5 this Act, and ending June 30, 2021.

6 **SECTION 5. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.